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PRESS RELEASE:
City of Burlington To Construct Drainage Improvements to Reduce Flooding at the Main Street/South Winooski Avenue Intersection Starting the Week of May 12, 2014

Contact: Megan Moir, 540-1748, mmoir@burlingtonvt.gov for project information
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In response to the frequent flooding at the intersection of Main Street and South Winooski Avenue and on South Winooski Avenue south of Main Street, the City of Burlington Department of Public Works initiated a flooding mitigation evaluation in late 2013. Unlike some other storm event challenged areas of the City, where flooding is caused primarily by a lack of capacity in the subsurface pipes, the main mechanism of flooding in this area was determined by DPW Engineering Staff to be primarily the result of an inability of the drains themselves to drain the flow of water coming down the Main Street and South Winooski hills. Essentially, the vessel is big enough, but the opening to the vessel is too small and can also be too easily clogged to keep up with the flow of water.

Since this type of flooding can be mitigated by simpler changes to the number, location and type of storm drains versus wholesale replacement of pipes, the City decided to move forward with a drainage improvement design involving additional storm drains with larger inlet capacity. Other flooding challenges in the City will be evaluated once the City completes its update to the Main Plant Hydraulic/Hydrologic Model in late 2014 (see: http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Stormwater/Projects). A system wide model is necessary to optimize solutions in those areas where the suspected mechanism of flooding is pipe-capacity versus inlet related.

Based on this information and strategy, in early 2014 the Department of Public Works engaged our On-Call consultants, Aldrich + Elliot. P.C., to undertake a feasibility study and ultimately to produce construction documents.

The final plans (available at: http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Stormwater/Projects) involve:

- 4 additional storm drainage structures on Main Street uphill of the intersection
- 2 additional storm drainage structures on South Winooski, uphill of the intersection
- 1 additional storm drainage structure on South Winooski, downhill of the intersection, but above the entrance to the Courthouse
- 1 possible additional structure on King Street
- use of high capacity inlet structures (larger grates and integrated curb inlets)

Work will begin the week of May 12, 2014 and is anticipated to follow the approximate phasing listed below, which has been crafted to avoid disruptions during the UVM Graduation weekends and the Marathon:

- Week of May 12: Beginning with the lower section of S. Winooski between Main and King Streets.
- Week of May 19: South side of Main Street
- Week of May 26 and beyond: North side of Main Street and Upper S. Winooski Ave, King Street (possibly)

Project Costs:
Feasibility Study: $3,705
Engineering: $10,700
Construction Engineering: $6,800
Construction Cost estimate: $171,000

Total: $192,205

The construction costs are being funded primarily by the City's Stormwater Program budget, with engineering expenses cost-shared between the Wastewater and Stormwater divisions. Wastewater is a participant in the project because the collection system involved is in the combined sewer system.